



July 20, 2015

## Weekly Report

# Highlight of Departmental Activities

***The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory lists, headings and text in blue to be linked to more information.***

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### Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

#### **Farmer's Market:**

The Farmers Market of Rutherford County is excited to announce that the local singing duo of Lake & Moore will be performing at the Market this Saturday morning, July 18th! The childhood friends and college roommates not only perform a mix of folk, folk-rock, country and sacred music, but they also have written over 20 original songs. Please plan to join us for an exciting, lively performance at the Market located at 172 Depot Street in downtown Forest City! A "BIG" thank you to *Kiss of the Sun Gardens* (one of our vendors) for sponsoring this event! Please check our Facebook page - Farmers Market of Rutherford County, NC for more details!

### Airport

The Airport sold 1,416.1 gallons of 100LL to 42 aircraft and 1,245.0 gallons of Jet A to 5 aircraft last week.

An AT-502 "Air Tractor" stopped by for fuel on its way to work last week.

While not the largest of the Air Tractors, the AT-502 is one of the most popular with its 52' wing span and carrying 500 gallons of spray (**pictured right**).



## **Board of Elections**

Filing season has been very busy with 22 candidates filing through the close of business on Tuesday. Filing will end at Noon on Friday, July 17, 2015. A list of those who have filed is available on our website at: <http://rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/boardofelections/candidates>

## **County Manager and Commissioners**

The County Manager and Commissioners were involved in numerous meetings and several community events. The quarterly Department Head meeting was held on Wednesday with twenty-four in attendance and facilitated by the County Manager, Steve Garrison. Topics discussed were *Expectations–Moving Forward*, *Human Resources Update*, *Public Records Requests*, *New Department Head/Manager Orientation and Training*, *County Commissioners' FY2016 Goals*, and ended with several managers sharing 'highlights' from their departments. Chairman Bryan King attended the Northland Cable Grand Re-opening ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday. Vice Chairman Alan Toney and the County Manager were involved with the Senior Center Advisory Board meeting on Thursday. Hazel Haynes, Clerk to the Board, participated as a panelist for the Granicus Boards and Commissions webinar July 15, 2015. The webinar featured Rutherford County's experience and knowledge with Granicus' Boards and Commissions program and offered an open Q & A discussion for participants. Other staff attended various webinars. The week continued with several departmental meetings, project discussions, appointments, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.

## **Economic Development**

This week, the Economic Development Department responded to an RFI and hosted a site visit for an industrial prospect. Economic Development staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and working on website content and marketing and advertising projects. This week's schedule also included participating in the monthly EDC Board Meeting, and attended multiple meetings to include the Chamber of Commerce Board of Director's Meeting, as well as internal meetings with other county departments and industry allies.

We are pleased to share with you that our first of three advertisements in Site Selection Magazine has been released! [View our advertisement as it appears on page 65 of the July 2015 issue.](#)

**The flyer and letter on page 3 was distributed in an e-blast this week from Economic Director, Matt Blackwell.**

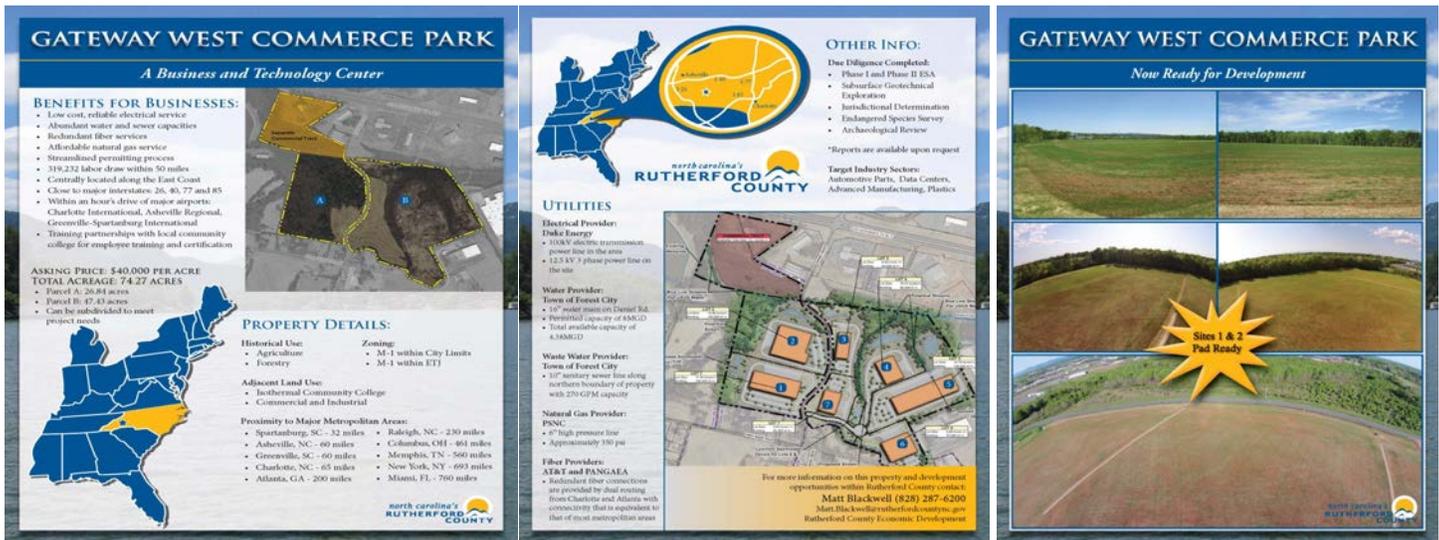
## **Finance**

The Finance Director attended several meetings, including the quarterly Department Head Meeting. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

## **Fire Marshal/Emergency Management**

Fire Marshal and staff:

- completed additional Emergency Management Performance Grant requirements.
- responded to two searches for missing persons over the weekend.
- attended the Western North Carolina Firefighters Association meeting and various other meetings during the week.
- assisted the N.C. Forest Service on a fire in the South Mountains.
- followed up on fire investigation open cases.
- conducted one origin and cause fire investigation.



The above flyer and letter listed below was distributed in an e-blast this week from Economic Director, Matt Blackwell:

I am pleased to share with you Rutherford County and Gateway West Commerce Park – a business and technology center. Rutherford County’s strategic location along the edge of the I -85 manufacturing and distribution corridor between Charlotte, NC and Greenville, SC provides convenient access to two major manufacturing centers and a large, readily available workforce. Rutherford County has a labor draw of nearly 320,000 within a 50 mile radius. Transportation of product is convenient with four-lane access to Interstates 85, 26, and 40 reaching more than 60% of the country’s manufacturing base in less than a two-day drive. Along with low cost reliable utilities, our tax rate (43<sup>rd</sup> of 100 in NC) and local industrial incentive program makes Rutherford County a value when selecting a location for business and industry.

Gateway West Commerce Park, comprised of 90 acres of county-owned property, is ideal for users from a variety of industrial sectors including automotive suppliers, advanced materials, metal working, plastics, data centers and distribution. In April 2015, Rutherford County completed grading activities preparing 18 acres for industrial development. An additional 56 shovel-ready acres complete the industrial sites that make up Gateway West Commerce Park. The property can be subdivided to meet the needs of your industrial development projects. The property is located within the jurisdiction of the Town of Forest City and is zoned industrial (M-1). Immediately adjoining the industrial sites are 16 available acres being developed by Rutherford County for commercial and retail growth.

Located adjacent to the campus of Isothermal Community College, Gateway West Commerce Park is located 0.2 miles from Highway 74-Alternate, 48 miles from Greenville Spartanburg International Airport, and 60 miles from Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Gateway West Commerce Park was selected by Duke Energy Carolinas and participated in the 2013 Site Readiness Program. All due diligence has been completed and all reports are available upon request.

The above flyer includes more detailed information and photos of the pre-graded sites. Alternately, you can view footage of our [completed grading activities](#) via YouTube. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you to site your industrial prospects at Gateway West Commerce Park. Please contact me for more information or to schedule a site visit.

**Matt Blackwell**  
 Executive Director - Economic Development  
 142 E. Main Street, Suite 100, Forest City, NC 28043  
 828.287.6200 (o) | 828.287.6201 (f) | 828.748.4693 (m)



## Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Stephanie Moore (Sheriff) and Callie Holland (Detention). Welcome new hires Michael Neighbors (p/t (911), Samuel Pruette (Solid Waste), Ronald Walker (Solid Waste), Dane Heffner (Solid Waste), Brian Higgins (Detention), and Brittany Maxwell (DSS).

The Director attended the Department Head staff meeting, the HR Association meeting, and conducted interviews for the IT Analyst position along with IT Director Jai Doherty and Assistant Director Peter Gaulin. Interviews were also completed this week for the Building Inspection position. Current vacancies are Program Manager. Apply at [Rutherfordcountync.gov](http://Rutherfordcountync.gov) or 289 North Main Street.

The Human Resource Specialist conducted new hire orientation.

## Library

### **Library Director:**

The Director helped with the first Library Makercamp (**pictured on page 5**). We had lots of fun making stomp/rocket launchers and are looking forward to next week's camp. Compiled reports for the quarterly Trustee meeting and updated the monthly report used at all three library sites. Attended meetings and tracked statistical use data for online library features.

### **Circulation Manager:**

Library staff assembled a new revolving magazine rack and moved the current magazine issues onto the rack. The boxes which store the back issues of magazines have been moved to the top of the bookcase. The shelves that once held these periodicals will now be used for books. This is part of an ongoing effort to make the best possible use of the limited space available in the library. Library staff assisted the Director in moving several boxes of donations to the Evans storage building.

### **IT Librarian:**

We are gearing up to host our second ever Maker Camp at the main library in Spindale! Camp will meet 9:30am - 11:30am every Monday, July 13 - August 3, and is for kids ages 8 - 18. Some of projects we'll work on include building stomp launchers, making music with bananas, brush bots, and trebuchets. We still have a few spots available, so if you or someone you know would be interested in participating, contact Kenneth at ex. 6327. Our computer classes have resumed for the summer and sessions are now available at all three library locations. See the attached schedule for the complete listing of classes, times, and locations.

### **Youth Services Librarian:**

Participants in all three libraries were entertained at this week's Summer Reading Program by NC Poet/Storyteller, Michael Beadle. Next Tuesday, July 21, continues with free programs by Magician Bill Grimsley at Haynes Branch Library at 9:30 a.m., Rutherford County Library at 12:30 p.m., and Mountains Branch Library at 3:30 p.m. And that evening at 6:30 at the County Library, Mr. Grimsley will entertain patrons ages 10 and older with an automated Trivia Game Show using participation from the audience.

### **Haynes Branch Library:**

Haynes had 76 children register for the Summer Reading Program. There were a total of 217 people that attended the Summer Reading Programs at the Haynes Library for the month of June.

Library continued from page 4

**Mountains Branch:**

Mountains Library hosted a Film & Discussion Night, a Summer Reading Program and Computer Classes this week. Joy Sharp and Angie Turner were very busy processing lots of new books and movies for our collection. Joy Sharp distributed large banners through the Town of Lake Lure Banner Program to promote the upcoming Friends of the Library Big Book Sale to be held July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. She also met with the Library Director and other Consortium representatives to amend the Consortium handbook. Plans were finalized for the Volunteer Brunch to be held August 1st.



**Revenue Department**

**The Revenue Department** handled 53 VTS assists. The office answered 551 phone calls and assisted 330 customers. We completed 5 plat reviews, 4 projects, 7 pre-permits and answered 7 data requests. Appraisers completed 127 building permits and 59 field reviews. A total of 56 new documents were recorded and 52 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 72 straights, 5 estates, 1 merge and 3 splits. GIS created 5 new maps. The GIS website had 184,752 hits and 134,692 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 1 new address and updated 20 addresses with new owner information. 230 listing forms were received and 10 letters were mailed back out. The PUV program mailed 5 letters, and assisted 71 program members. Staff processed 7 exclusions/deferments and 6 discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 9 by credit card, 10 by website and 2 over the phone. Staff completed 2 gross receipts, 10 occupancy taxes and 5 payment plans. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 258 tax payments. Thirty new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

**Register of Deeds**

<b>Transaction Group</b>	<b>Cash</b>
Copies	\$ 50.75
Real Estate	21,049.00
Marriages	1,200.00
Certified Vitals Copies	4,260.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,359.75</b>

## Senior Center

The Senior Center was recently recognized once again as a Senior Center of Excellence. We focused this week on “Celebrating the Senior Center” with special events and sweet treats. This week was also “Celebrating Game Show Week.” Our seniors enjoyed the Senior Center’s version of “Price is Right”, “Family Feud”, and “Minute to Win It”. The Senior Center Advisory Board also met on Thursday for their quarterly meeting. Lastly, the Center hosted an Open House Celebration with tours and refreshments on Friday afternoon.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:45 on July 20, 27 August 3, 10, 17, 31

## Sheriff’s Department

### Monthly Report

June 2015

Calls for Service	4460
Warrants Served/Total Arrest	205/177
Domestic Calls	212
Involuntary Commitments/Hours	26/23.0 Man hours
Civil Papers Served	387
Ex Partes Served	23
Evictions	15
Animals Pickup/Surrender	230
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued	180
Animal Control Calls for Service	171
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol	150/28
Pill Drop Collections	8,861 Doses Units/400ml Liquids
Average Daily Inmate Confinement	198
Gun Purchase Permits Issued	106
Carry Concealed Permits Issued	22
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours	3/0.0 Man Hours
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours	81/20.0 Man Hours
<b>Personnel Actions</b>	
<b>Promotion Effective 7.6.15</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jamie Keever, Sgt. Detectives	Lt. Investigations
Marc Duncan, Detective	Sgt. Detective
<b>Promotion Effective 7.20.15 (8.3.15)</b>	<b>Position</b>
Brandon Ellenburg, Cpl. Road Patrol	Detective

## Soil & Water

Admin/Education Specialist:

- attended the Department Head meeting
- attended the Watershed Commission Meeting.
- worked on the District Annual Report.

Agriculture Cost Share Technician:

- spent the week working on Watershed projects and annual reports.

## Solid Waste

Customers served 332

Loads hauled from convenience centers 63

Loads shipped to Lenoir 34

Recycling loads sent to Conover 2

Tire customers 20

The office staff has been busy this week serving customers and working on state reports. The transfer station staff continues to process the MSW and the recycling. We almost have another electronics truck ready for shipment. Work continues to be performed in C&D with dirt being hauled for cover and a new animal disposal site being constructed. Work continues at the airport with normal grass cutting and we have started the bush hogging of the run way area (**pictured**). The shop staff continues to service and perform preventative maintenance on the equipment and vehicles. The director has been busy this week with the opening of the grant process, conducting meetings with employees and coordinating the delivery of new equipment for the airport.

Also the director attended the department head meeting and met with several vendors that

stopped by the landfill. We welcome the three new hires that have joined the Solid Waste staff as floaters for the Convenience Centers. The site work for the new recycling compactors at Gilkey and Greenhill Convenience Center will begin soon.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer reports are now being submitted by the Sherriff Department.

Everyone please continue to recycle!!!!



## Transportation Services

### Emergency Medical Services:

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	153	168
Convalescent Calls	58	59

### Transit Department:

Transit held its monthly Safety Meeting on Friday 7/10. Randy Kanipe was selected as Transit's Employee of the Month. Work has been completed on the installation of new tile in the kitchen, hall and bathrooms. Tile at front entrance has also been replaced due to broken tiles and possible tripping hazard. Staff was notified that our Federal Compliance Review will be scheduled for later this year and staff has started the work required prior to the review teams arrival. Operations Manager met with representative from ICOM North America an alternative fuel system provider to discuss the advantages of the Liquid Propane systems over the Vapor CNP systems for vehicles and to discuss the possibility of a future meeting to explore this further. Operations Manager attended a scheduled Department Head Meeting at the Annex.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,244	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,175	881
# of Out of County Trips	78	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	252	238
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$15,875</b>	<b>\$14,549</b>

## Veterans Services

<b>Mail In</b>	40
<b>Mail Out</b>	59
<b>Fax</b>	128
<b>Phone Calls In/Out</b>	93
<b>Veteran Contacts</b>	201

*County Manager*  
Steve Garrison

*County Commissioners*

Bryan A. King, *Chairman*                      Alan Toney, *Vice Chairman*  
Michael Benfield, Eddie Holland, Greg Lovelace

*County Office*

Hazel Haynes, *Clerk to Board*  
Richard Williams, *County Attorney*

